

Application No. 10/586,277
Paper Dated: July 12, 2010
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of June 10, 2010
Attorney Docket No. 3135-062115

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 10, 2010 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that the application contains groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Accordingly, the Examiner is requiring restriction between the following groups of inventions:

- Group I - Claims 18-30, drawn to an apparatus useful for cleaning surfaces;
- Group II - Claim 31, drawn to a vehicle useful for cleaning surfaces; and
- Group III - Claims 32-34, drawn to a method for cleaning surfaces fouled with chewing gum.

The Examiner asserts that the inventions of Groups I, II, and III lack the same or corresponding special technical features.

The Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, claims 18-30, drawn to an apparatus useful for cleaning surfaces.

The election is made with traverse for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement with respect to Groups I, II, and III. Maintaining the claims of Groups II-III along with Group I would pose no undue burden on the Examiner. While the differences between Group I and Groups II-III may appear significant, the subject matter is interrelated such that when searching and examining the Group I claims, the Examiner will also encounter the subject matter set forth in Groups II-III. All of the claim groups' subject matter overlap with that of Group I which concerns an apparatus for cleaning surfaces fouled with chewing gum.

The search required for the examination of the apparatus of Group I would certainly encompass the search required for the examination of Group III method claims, which teach a method of using the particular apparatus of Group I for cleaning surfaces fouled with chewing gum.

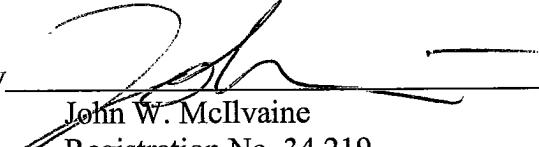
Further, a search for prior art concerning the apparatus of Group I, would encompass the subject matter of Group II, a vehicle for cleaning surfaces fouled with chewing gum.

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Accordingly, there is no undue burden on the Examiner for maintaining all of these claims within the same application. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Should the restriction requirement be maintained, Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application or take such other appropriate measures as Applicant deems necessary to protect the inventions recited within the non-elected inventions.

Respectfully submitted,
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